New Guidelines for Sugar Export

1658. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRI ANANT GUDHE :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether sugar export has shown a dismal performance;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for fall of export in sugar;

(c) whether the Agricultural Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEDA) has framed new guidelines for the export of sugar;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether sugar exports is likely to suffer further due to stickness of norms;

(f) if so, the steps being taken in this regard; and

(g) if not, the extent to which the new guidelines will help in boosting the export of sugar ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The past three sugar seasons have seen a growth in sugar exports as follows :

Sl. No.	Sugar Season (Oct.—Sept.)	Sugar Exported (in lakh tonnes) (Prov.)
1.	1993-94	0.75
2.	1994-95	0.41
3.	1995-96	8.92
4.	1996-97 (upto Jan., 1997)	2.92

(c) and (d) The Agricultural Processed Foods Export Development Authority (APEDA) have issued a trade notice on 17.2.97 for the export of 2.5 lakh tonnes of sugar. The export of sugar can be carried out by individuals, firms, sugar factories, etc. after obtaining Registration-cum-Allocation Certificates from APEDA.

(e) No, Sir. With the promulgation of the Sugar Export Promotion (Repeal) Ordinance, 1997 on 15.1.97, the export of sugar has been decanalised thereby relaxing the norms.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) It is not possible to quantify the level of sugar exports for a future date as these depend on a host of factors including prevailing international sugar prices.

[Translation]

Research Institutes

1659. SHRI SURENDRA YADAV :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many institutes in the country are undertaking the agricultural research work;

(b) if so, whether the Government have formulated any scheme for the development and extension of these research institutes during the past years after signing the GATT agreement; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time schedule prescribe for bringing these institutes at par with international level ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is regular process for the development and upgradation of Agricultural Research Institutes to strengthen their research capabilities to meet the emerging needs. A National Centre on DNA Fingerprinting has been established. Need based reorientation/strengthening of research capabilities are projected in the Report of the Working Group on Agricultural Research & Education for the IX Plan.

(c) Strengthening and upgradation of research institutes is an on-going process and therefore, no time schedule is prescribed for bringing them at par with international level.

[English]

New Deep Sea Fishery Port

1660. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal to construct a new deep sea fishery port at Agardanda in Raigadh District of Maharashtra is pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to clear the same ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Air Pollution Levels

1661. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government have studied the Supreme Court's judgement placing restrictions ranging from the suspension of vehicle licences to keep automobiles off the road to address the alarming levels of air pollution in the capital as reported in the 'Indian Express' dated November 10, 1996;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the follow-up action taken to check ambient air pollution level exceeding the World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines in 36 Indian cities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) The matter regarding pollution from automobiles in Delhi was taken up by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. However, no judgement has been passed placing restrictions to keep automobiles off the road.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A number of measures are being taken/proposed for controlling vehicular pollution in the country. These include the following:

(i) Gross emission standards for on-road vehicles and mass emission standards for all categories of new vehicles have been notified under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 and are being enforced by the Departments of Transport of the various States.

(ii) Stricter emission norms have been introduced with effect from 1.4.1996 and stricter norms are to be introduced effective from 1.4.2000. The automobile manufacturers have to upgrade their technology to meet these emission norms.

(iii) Low-lead petrol (0.15 grammes/litre) has been introduced throughout the country from 1.1.1997.

(iv) A major programme for introduction of unleaded petrol and catalytic converter fitted vehicles is under implementation. The first phase covering the four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai, came into effect on 1.4.1995. In the next phase, effective from 1.1.1999, catalytic converter fitted vehicles would be introduced in the Capitals of all States and UTs. Unleaded petrol is planned to be supplied throughout the country from 1.4.2000.

(v) Diesel with a sulphur content of 0.5% has already been introduced in the four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai from 1.4.1995. Low-sulphur diesel (0.25%) is planned to be introduced throughout the country from 1.4.1999.

(vi) Surveys have been conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board on the vehicular emissions in the major cities and towns in the country. The findings of the survey have been used for the preparation of measures for control as well as abatement of vehicular pollution in the major cities.

(vii) The ambient air quality of various cities and towns are being monitored through a network of 290 monitoring stations under the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme. In Delhi, a total of ten ambient air quality monitoring stations have been set up. The data form the basis for analysis of air quality trends in different regions against the prescribed standards.

(viii) The Transport Department of the Government of NCT of Delhi, has launched an awareness campaign on vehicular pollution which includes health effects resulting from vehicular pollution, the maintenance measures for its control and the punitive action for violation of pollution control regulations. A Special Task Force, under the chairmanship of Lt. Governor, Delhi, has been set up for control of vehicular pollution in Delhi.

Joint Forest Management Programme

1662. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has recently announced to provide some facilities under its Rs. 800 crore joint Forest Management Programme in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of forest staff likely to be benefited under the programme;

(c) whether Non-Governmental Organisations involved in environmental conservation will also be benefited; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) A Forestry Project with an outlay of Rs. 245.9 crores is under implementation in Madhya Pradesh with assistance from the World Bank since 1995-96. The project supports Joint Forest Management for implementation of various activities and about 1,140 village communities participating in the management of about 75,000 hectares forest land would be benefited by improved access to forest products and improved agriculture and alternative income generating activities from village resource development programme and eco-development programme. The forest staff will be benefited by training in various disciplines of forestry and extension activities.

(c) and (d) The project envisages active involvement of non-governmental organisations in the implementation of some of the components like village level eco-development programmes. The services and expertise of non-